(a) whether it is a fact that a number of hydro-electricity projects of Karnataka are pending environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects and the reasons for the delay in clearing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No hydro-electric project from Karnataka is pending for environmental clearance.

**Reorganisation of O. N. G. C.**

509. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for reorganisation the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) as suggested by the international funding bodies with a view to achieve better results; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISETR OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No decision to reorganise ONGC has been taken by the Government.

**Air Pollution**

510. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute, to the effect that Air Pollution has assumed such alarming proportions, in several cities and rural areas, that the air in Bombay is as harmful as smoking ten cigarettes a day;

(b) whether Government have formulated any long-term plan to countenance this menace in the metropolitan cities and to educate the general public of its ill-effects; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The statement is qualitative in nature and does not appear to be based on any scientific studies comparing air quality levels and cigarette smoking carried out either in Bombay or in the other metropolitan cities.

(b) and (c) According to the ambient air quality survey, the air pollution levels in our metropolitan cities are, by and large, within the prescribed limits. While the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are well within the limits, the particulate matter is on the higher side. This is due to natural dusty conditions and industrial activities including thermal power plants. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has monitored carbon monoxide levels at traffic junctions in Bombay. It is observed that the carbon monoxide levels at the traffic junctions were found in the range of 8.2 to 20.3 ppm. These higher levels are due to heavy traffic of automobiles. However, the ambient air quality levels of carbon monoxide in the residential areas are well within the limits. However, from smoking, the carbon monoxide exposure is of several orders of magnitude over the levels that have been found at various traffic junctions in Bombay. 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Governments to comply with the effluent/emission standards by 31-12-1991. Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The

Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards with effect from 1st March, 1990. The State Departments of Transport have initiated publicity campaigns for environmental education.

**Pollution control norms**

511. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer factories, both in the public and private sectors are flouting pollution control norms and discharging harmful effluents into the nearby rivers and sea waters; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments, has prepared an action plan for 17 categories of highly polluting industries, including fertilizer factories, which are required to meet the effluent and emission standards by December 31, 1991. The Government has also taken the following steps for the prevention and control of industrial pollution:

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) Network of embient air quality and embient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated standards.

(iv) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

**रणथम्भौर में टाइगर प्रोजेक्टस**

512. **डा० अबरार अहमद :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि पालतू जानवर रणथम्भौर टायगर प्रोजेक्ट के क्षेत्र में खुले आम प्रवेश करते हैं ;

(ख) टाइगर प्रोजेक्ट क्षेत्र से बाहरी व्यक्तियों से घास काटे जाने को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं और दोषी पाए गए अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाही किए जाने का विचार है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार इस मामले में जांच शुरू करने का विचार रखती है ?

**पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) :** (क) रणथम्भोर बाघ परियोजना में दो प्रकार के क्षेत्र हैं अर्थात् बफर क्षेत्र और कोर क्षेत्र। वर्तमान नियमों के अनुसार बफर क्षेत्र के कुछ भागों में पालतू पशुओं को चराने की अनुमति है । कोर क्षेत्र में पालतू पशुओं के प्रवेश की अनुमति नहीं है ।

(ख) बाहर के लोगों द्वारा अवैध रूप से घास काटने को रोकने के लिए नियमित गश्त लगाई जाती है तथा स्थानीय सहयोग प्राप्त करने हेतु कदम उठाए गए हैं । प्रबंध पद्धतियों के अनुसार तथा ग्राम स्तर की प्रबंध समिति की सलाह पर केवल चारागाह क्षेत्रों और विशिष्ट कूपों में ही बाहर के व्यक्तियों द्वारा परियोजना क्षेत्र से घास काटने की अनुमति है । चूंकि कोई भी अधिकारी दोषी नहीं पाया गया इसलिए कार्रवाई करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।